

[10th December 1923]

ARMS ACT.

Issue of licences for firearms in Kurnool.

2 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Kurnool has issued orders that no licences for firearms will be granted from next year to the inhabitants of Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks in the Kurnool district;

(2) if so, were the Government informed of the proposal of the Collector, and have they agreed to the proposal; or were the orders issued on his own initiative and without consulting the Government; and

(3) what the necessity was for an order prohibiting wholesale the issue of licences in two taluks?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2) & (3) The District Magistrate has discretion with regard to the issue of licences with which the Government do not propose to interfere. His action is due to the increasing practice of using bombs for the commission of crimes in connexion with party feuds in the two taluks mentioned.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“May I ask whether as a matter of fact the Government were informed of the proposals of the Collector of Kurnool before he actually passed these orders and whether he had their consent?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“In a general report about the troubles in the two taluks, the District Magistrate has informed us that he proposes to refuse renewal of licences or applications for fresh licence at the end of the current year.”

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—“May I know, Sir, whether he has used his discretion properly?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I do not know, Sir, whether you wish me to answer a hypothetical question of that kind.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“I wish to know if this method has put an end to the use of bombs.”

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—“I wish to know how many offences were committed by the use of fire-arms.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I want notice of that question.”

FORESTS.

Hirehal forest reserves, Bellary.

3 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(i) to state—

(a) when Hirehal A and B forest reserves of Bellary range were handed over to forest panchayats for management;

(b) the average income from them to the Government during the three previous years under the heads of (i) grazing fees, (ii) compounding fees and fines and (iii) miscellaneous revenue;

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- (c) the average expenditure in the same period incurred by the Government on account of (i) establishment and (ii) other charge ;
- (d) the sum for which the right to manage the said forests was first handed over to the forest panchayat for management ; and
- (e) the sum agreed to in the last year of lease ;
- (ii) to furnish similar information in the case of the other forest reserves in the Bellary district now under the management of the forest panchayats ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Will the Government call for the information ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ I may explain to the hon. Member that the answer is this : The question was received even during the last session. We have obtained some information since. The answer to

- (a) is ‘ Yes ’ in 1916 ;
- (b) & (c) information is not available ;
- (d) Rs. 250 ;
- (e) Rs. 225.

As regards (b) and (c) it has been ascertained that the information is not available in the Chief Conservator’s Office or anywhere else.

As regards (ii) of the question, I think I am entitled to ask for some information as to the kind of information the hon. Member wants in regard to the forest reserves in the Bellary district.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Has the amount been fixed without any reference whatsoever to the income and expenditure in connexion therewith ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ The amount is certainly fixed with reference to the income previously received by Government. I understand that my hon. Friend, Mr. Tireman, has recently given some attention to this matter and the tendency now is to reduce the amount that we ask the panchayats to pay.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ I take it that these were fixed with reference to the rates during the previous year. If so, how is it that they are not able to provide information ? I ask for the income and expenditure in that connexion.”

No answer.

Distribution of the disafforested areas in Erode taluk.

4 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was the intention of the Government that a portion of forests recently disafforested in the Erode taluk should be given to the members of the depressed and backward communities ; and, if so, whether that intention was communicated to the Collector ;

(b) if it is a fact that the Collector passed orders that two-thirds of the lands available should be given to the London Mission authorities to be disposed of by them ; and, if so, whether the Collector gave any directions as to their distribution ;